

CURRENT TOPICS.

ONE of the survivors of the crew of the lost steamship Pacific was picked up by the revenue steamer Oliver Wolcott, on the morning of the 8th. He was found floating on a raft, and said that Captain Howell had been his companion on the raft, but had been washed off and drowned. He states that the Pacific was struck by another vessel under full sail. Several dead bodies had been picked up by various vessels.

THE steamship City of Waco, from New York for Galveston, arrived off Galveston bar on the morning of the 8th. There being a heavy sea, she anchored outside the fleet of vessels. About 1 o'clock on the following morning she was observed to be on fire, and in a comparatively short time she was burned to the water's edge. It was at first supposed that all on board had escaped in the boats, as the mate of the ship Fusigama, lying in the vicinity, reported seeing a boat or raft pass at 3 o'clock. A steam tug was sent out to search for the survivors, and the various pilot boats were all put on the look out, but up to 10 p.m. the search had proved fruitless, and it was then feared that all on board had perished on the burning vessel. As none of the other vessels in the vicinity had seen any boats or rafts, it was believed that the mate of the Fusigama had been mistaken and that no boats were launched. There were 47 or 48 persons on board, including the officers and crew. The City of Waco was an iron screw steamship, 1,500 tons burden, and about two years old. She was valued at \$250,000, and her cargo at about \$100,000.

—The English steamer Abdiel was anchored directly to leeward of the City of Waco at the time of the disaster. Her mate reports that the fire was discovered at 12:30 a.m., and that the ship appeared to burst almost instantaneously into a mass of flames. He heard cries of distress from several persons in the water, but could render no assistance before they were out of reach. It is his opinion that the Waco was struck by lightning, which ignited the oil on board, and that the flames spread so rapidly that all chance for escape by the boats was cut off.

RETURNS of the State elections held on the 2d, received up to the 10th, give the following results:

Massachusetts—The complete vote for Governor is as follows: Rice (Rep.), 81,523; Gaston (Dem.), 78,296; Baker (Pro.), 8,965; Adams, 1,774; Phillips, 391. Plurality for Rice, 3,227.

New York—Bigelow (Dem.) for Secretary of State has a majority of about 17,000. The Legislature is Republican by about 20 majority.

New Jersey—The State Legislature will be composed as follows: Senate—Republicans, 12; Democrats, 9. House—Republicans, 37; Democrats, 23.

Pennsylvania—The full official vote gives Hartranft (Rep.), for Governor, a majority of 14,579.

Maryland—Carroll (Dem.) is elected Governor by about 15,000 majority. Legislature Democratic.

Wisconsin—Ludington (Rep.) has about 1,200 majority for Governor. Kuehn (Dem.) is elected Treasurer by about 3,500 majority. The vote for the other candidates is so close that nothing but the official vote can determine the result. The Republicans have about 8 majority in the Senate and 3 in the Assembly.

Minnesota—The majority of Pillsbury (Rep.), for Governor, will be about 1,000. The Legislature will stand 38 Republicans and 50 Democrats.

Kansas—Returns from 89 of the 103 representative districts show the election of 58 Republicans, 8 Independent Republicans, 11 Democrats, and 12 elected on People's and Reform tickets. The other 14 districts, it was estimated, would return at least 12 more Republicans. The only Senatorial vacancy is filled by the election of a Republican, and of the 3 District Judges voted for the Republicans have elected 2.

Mississippi—The Democrats elect 4 out of the 5 Congress-men, and will have a majority of some 35 to 40 in the Legislature.

SECRETARY CHANDLER, it is said, will not recommend the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department, but will advise a more active participation of the army in the maintenance of the present system. Secretary Chandler will insist that the treaty provision is executed which requires an army officer to supervise the distribution of all annuity goods.

COMMISSIONER EATON, of the National Bureau of Education, presents some interesting statistics in his fifth annual report. Out of 10,000,000 boys and girls between the ages of six and sixteen years, the total public school enrollment in the United States and Territories amounts to 8,000,000, with an average

attendance of 4,500,000. The total expenditure for public school purposes for the past year reached the sum of \$74,000,000. The expenditures in the year per capita of average attendance in the public schools are as follows: Massachusetts, \$20; Ohio, \$14; Nebraska, \$18; Rhode Island \$18; Connecticut, \$19; Vermont, \$12; New York, \$21; Iowa, \$14; Michigan, \$15; New Jersey, \$18; Indiana, \$14; Illinois, \$13; Maine, \$10; Maryland, \$19; Minnesota, \$13; Mississippi \$9; Tennessee, \$5; Virginia \$8; Florida, \$8; District of Columbia, \$26; Montana, \$17; Colorado, \$22; Utah, \$6; Cherokee Nation, \$24. The statistics of several States are deficient or altogether wanting.

THE New York Herald of the 10th publishes a telegraphic synopsis of letters received in London from Mr. H. M. Stanley, its correspondent in Africa. Stanley confirms Speke's statement that the Victoria Nyanza is a single lake, and not five, as reported by Livingstone. The River Shimeeyu is the principal feeder of the lake and extreme source of the Nile yet discovered. Stanley had several conflicts with slave-dealers on the lake. On one occasion he was attacked by 100 natives, armed with spears, in thirteen canoes, who were repulsed after a severe fight. Three natives were killed. He arrived at the Utesal hunting-camp at Nisayura April 12, where the King directed extraordinary festivities and displays. One feature was a naval review on the lake of eighty-four canoes, manned by 2,500 men. On the second day, in addition to the naval maneuvers, there were races in which eighty-four canoes were engaged, each propelled by thirty oarsmen, the King leading the fleet personally, in the presence of a great crowd of on-lookers, including the 300 wives of the King. On the third day there was bird-shooting and target-practice by 3,000 troops, and on the fourth day he returned to Mtesas, the capital. The King has 2,000,000 subjects. He is a Mussulman, has great intelligence, and his dominion affords the best augury for the possible civilization of Africa.

THE mystery of the sinking of the steamship Pacific has been solved by the discovery on the shores of Barclay Sound, by the revenue cutter Wolcott, of the officers and crew of the ship Orpheus, of San Francisco, bound for Departure Bay. They report that on the night of Thursday, November 4, they were run into by an unknown steamer and their vessel so badly injured that they supposed it to be sinking, and signaled for assistance. The steamer did not seem to heed their signals, however, but passed on. They did not see the steamer's lights until she was close upon them. After a day's repairs they were enabled to continue their voyage, and made for land. By an error in his reckoning, the captain mistook the light of Cape Beale for that of Cape Flattery, and in consequence ran his ship upon a rock, where she will prove a total loss. All on board got safely to shore, where they were encamped when discovered by the Wolcott. They were taken on board the cutter and brought to Port Townsend.

A GENERAL advance of 50 per cent. on through freight rates over the East and West trunk lines of railway went into effect on the 15th inst.; and a corresponding advance in rates was also made by the roads running from Chicago to Missouri River points.

THE continued export of American calicoes to Europe is attracting no little attention, both in this country and in Europe. The total export of domestic manufactured goods for the week ending Nov. 14 was \$191,000, \$119,000 of which went to Great Britain. A number of buyers for the foreign markets have recently come to New York.

THE American Contracting Company of Iowa has recently been incorporated, with headquarters at Davenport in that State. The purpose of the company is to build 250 miles of railroad in Mexico, between the City of Mexico and Puebla, and a contract has been duly signed with the Mexican representatives for the building of the first fifty miles of railway within the valley of Puebla, from the city of Puebla southward to the city of Matamoros. By another contract the company becomes the three-fifths owner in 250,000 acres of choice coal lands, on which there is now open valuable mines of bituminous and anthracite coal, and the three-fifths owner in a concession from the Government to build 200 miles of railway from the City of Mexico southward and east to the said coal mines, which joins the first named line at Matamoros. In this contract the company pays \$1,200,000 purchase money for their interest, the

concession carrying with it an actual cash basis subsidy of \$3,000,000. The scheme is a grand one and the people and all the incorporators expect to get rich.

THE national cotton crop report for October, compiled by the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, shows an estimated increase of about 12 per cent. in the yield in Louisiana; 12 to 15 per cent. in Mississippi; 35 to 50 per cent. in Arkansas; 15 per cent. in Florida; and 18 per cent. in West Tennessee. The average yield in Alabama is about the same as last year. South Carolina shows a decrease of about 23 per cent.; Georgia, 10 per cent.; and East Tennessee, 33 per cent.

COMMISSIONER BURDET, of the General Land Office, will in his forthcoming report strongly recommend that all timber lands owned by the Government be appraised and thrown open to purchasers at not less than their appraised value. He is of opinion that unless they are thus placed under private guardianship the fine forests of the country will soon be wantonly exhausted by lumber companies and speculators, who are now stripping the land of its timber under cover of "dummy" pre-emption entries, or without any pretense of compliance with the law, while the Government derives no revenue from its property, and the country sustains irreparable damage from the sweeping denudation of large areas of its watersheds. He will also condemn the practice of extending the system of subdivision surveys over immense bodies of worthless land west of the one hundredth meridian, and suggest that only such tracts be minutely surveyed as have any attractions for settlers. He will also recommend that provision be made for connecting the Land-Office surveys with important points established by geological surveys of the Territories, and that monuments at section corners, etc., be constructed in a much more lasting manner. The recommendation of his predecessor that the pre-emption laws should be abolished and the homestead system made the only method of acquiring title to agricultural lands is repeated by Commissioner Burdet, and earnestly urged upon the attention of Congress.

THE United States Grand Jury, recently in session at Brownsville, Texas, found eighty indictments, mostly against Mexicans. In their report they say that from Brownsville to the Pecos River, a distance of six hundred miles in length and one hundred in width to the Nueces River, all the American rancheros have been ordered to leave their homes by Mexican raiders on pain of death, and that 100,000 head of stolen cattle are driven to Mexico annually by Mexican marauders. Numbers of Federal officials have been assassinated, Post-offices burned, Custom-houses robbed, mail-carriers and Inspectors of Customs killed while in the discharge of their duties, and the perpetrators of these crimes have gone unpunished, and general insecurity of life and property prevails on the border. The Jury urges decisive action on the part of the State and General Government to punish the criminals, and to protect the inhabitants from the Mexican banditti.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL BRIEVITIES.

THE complete vote for Governor in Iowa at the October election is as follows: Kirkwood (Rep.), 125,002; Leffler (Dem.), 93,324. Plurality for Kirkwood, 31,778. There was a scattering Temperance vote of a few hundred.

LORD MAYOR'S Day was celebrated in London, on the 9th, with the usual ceremonies.

THE celebrated Mordaunt divorce case in England has finally been terminated, Sir Charles having been granted an absolute divorce.

VICE-PRESIDENT WILSON was prostrated by a sudden illness, while in a barber's chair, in Washington, on the morning of the 10th. It was at first supposed to be an attack of apoplexy, but the physician said it was caused by indigestion and constipation. Mr. Wilson's condition at midnight was such that the attending physicians thought he would soon recover.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL PIERREPONT has decided that the act of Congress of April 27, 1860, confirmed to Hugh and John Maxwell a grant of 96,000 acres of land at the forks of Black River, in Reynolds and Iron Counties, Mo., made to Priest Maxwell in 1779, by the Spanish Governor.

A NUMBER of German merchants have united to raise \$50,000 to defray the expenses of the reception of the German Crown Prince in New York, and his subsequent escort to Philadelphia, on his visit to the Centennial exhibition.

W. A. CURTIS, of Ohio, for a number of years Chief Clerk in the General Land Office, has tendered his resignation.

THE Arkansas Senate has passed a joint resolution asking Congress to aid the Texas Pacific Railroad, provided the eastern terminus is made at Memphis.

THOMAS A. BOYLE, Republican, has been re-elected Mayor of Providence, R. I., for the tenth time.

LEONARD COX, Cashier of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in New York City, is a defaulter to the amount of \$13,000, according to his own confession. It appears that for over a year he has been in the habit of regularly abstracting large sums from cash placed in his hands, and investing them with certain Wall Street brokers for speculative purposes.

At Huntington, Ind., a few days ago, Samuel F. Winter, editor of the Huntington Democrat, met Justice Scott on the street, and, drawing a revolver, fired at the latter three times. Scott took leg-bail and escaped without being injured. On the previous day Scott had publicly horse-whipped Winter.

REV. B. H. BLACKWELL, a Presbyterian minister of Seymour, Ind., has been tried and found guilty of charges preferred against him, and sentenced to be excluded from the Presidency.

DR. BAXTER, Vice-President Wilson's medical attendant, says that the latter's recent serious illness is attributable directly to the excessively high temperature of a bath which he took while still suffering from indigestion caused by heavy dinners in New York and Philadelphia, closely following the overwork of mental faculties. If the local weakness of a portion of his spine had not diverted the rush of blood to his back, it would have gone to his brain and produced death by apoplexy.

THE widow of General Hendrick Van Rensselaer, formerly of Albany, N. Y., celebrated the anniversary of her 100th birthday at Randolph, Cattaraugus County, in that State, a few days since.

THE Secretary of the Treasury has agreed upon a commission to investigate the affairs of the Second Comptroller's office, with particular reference to the conduct of the Suggs Fort and Willowski cases.

CAPT. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL, of the lost steamer Pacific, is a brother of Mrs. Jefferson Davis, and served as a midshipman in the Confederate Navy, under Commodore Semmes. He was only 30 years of age.

THE jury in the Ward will case, at Detroit, being unable to agree, after having been out 55 hours, were discharged.

SUPERVISING ARCHITECT POTTER has submitted his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury. He recommends that in future designs for Government buildings be opened to the competition of other architects, the duty of the Supervising Architect to be simply the superintendence of construction.

COL. JOHN A. JOYCE, of St. Louis, formerly Internal Revenue Agent, who was convicted of conspiracy to defraud the Government by collusion with the Whisky Ring, has been sentenced by Judge Krehel of the United States District Court at Jefferson City to three and a half years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary and to pay a fine of two thousand dollars.

T. C. WOODWARD, of Iowa, has been appointed Examiner-in-Chief of the Patent Office.

CARDINAL McCLOSKEY received a grand ovation at Queenstown, prior to his departure for America, on the 15th.

JEFFERSON DAVIS has accepted the Presidency of the American Department of the Mississippi Valley Society of London, tendered him by the parent organization. The object of this movement is to direct attention to the development of the commercial, agricultural and mineral resources of the Valley of the Mississippi. Mr. Davis will devote his energies to the work in this country and Europe, making his headquarters at New Orleans.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

The closing price of gold in New York, on November 15, was 114 1/2.

The lease by which the Missouri Pacific Railroad passed under the control of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company has been rescinded, and Mr. Andrew Pierce has been appointed President of the Missouri Pacific under the new arrangement.

The Governors of Missouri and Illinois have issued proclamations, designating Thursday, Nov. 25, as a day for thanksgiving and prayer.

A horrible discovery was made by some sailors of the brig Helen G. Rich, which was wrecked on Sept. 25 off the coast of Cuba. They landed on a key, near which they discovered the hull of an iron vessel nearly submerged. Near their landing place, in rough circular structures built of stone, they found two decomposed bodies of seamen. In another a third body was found, and on the opposite side was found a shelter in which was still another body, in a recumbent position, resting against the wall. There was no food found, and it is evident the men had died from starvation.

The Oceanic House, on Star Island, Isle of Shoals, was burned on the 11th, together with most of the cottages. John R. Poor was the proprietor of the hotel. It was insured for about \$143,000.

Ten persons were killed and 100 injured by an explosion of fire damp in the Mollerey Colliery in Belgium, on the 11th. William Cochran, a Cherokee, and Sam Nelson, a Chickasaw, were killed by Houston Brown, a Chickasaw, a few days ago in Pickens County, Chickasaw Nation.

A New York dispatch says that the steamer Waco, burned in Galveston harbor, had on board three hundred cases of petroleum. The vessel had no right to carry this oil, being without the necessary certificate, and her owners will be prosecuted.

Tennessee was shaken by an earthquake on the morning of the 12th.

A disastrous fire occurred at Ellsworth, Kansas, on the morning of the 12th. Nearly all the leading business houses in the place and some fifteen or twenty dwellings were totally consumed. The loss is estimated at \$80,000, and the insurance is small.

The large cotton mills at Glasgow, belonging to Robertson & Co. and Young & Co., were totally destroyed by fire on the

11th. Loss estimated at \$1,500,000, and 1,200 persons are thrown out of employment.

The population of Kansas, as appears from the census taken in March last, is about 533,373, an increase of 3,090 over the census of the previous year.

There was a severe snow storm throughout Central New York on the 14th. At Buffalo the snow was twelve inches deep.

Smoot, Onan, and Meffert, the Owen County, Ky., Ku-klux prisoners, who were indicted for conspiring to kill United States officer Willis Russell, have been sentenced, the two former to five, and the latter to three years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

At Lake Station, Ind., a few days since, D. Craft purchased of a druggist one ounce and a half of wormseed oil to give to his four children, who were troubled with worms. He administered it to all of them in doses of from four to eight drops, three times a day, for three days, according to the directions of the druggist. One of the children refused to swallow the medicine and was saved, but the other three died, and were buried in one grave. They were from 1 to 5 years old. Doctors differ as to the power of the medicine, and at the inquest some testified that the doses were too large, while others insisted that they were not. No blame is attached to the father, but, on the contrary, great sympathy is felt for him. The people rather blame the druggist, who is thought to have been criminally careless.

The ship Calcutta, from Quebec for Liverpool, was recently wrecked off Grosbeak. Twenty-two men of the crew and a lady passenger were drowned. The captain, three men and a boy were saved.

The brig Morue, from St. Pierre, N. F., for San Salven, France, had 17 passengers and a crew of 12. On the 25th she was struck by a gale, which suddenly swept every thing from the deck, including the boats. Thirteen of the passengers and two of the crew were lost.

The crew of the British ship Lennie, Capt. Hatfield, from Antwerp for New York, mutinied on the 31st of October, and killed the master, mate and boatswain. The steward, one sailor, and a cabin-boy refused to join the mutineers, and they threw overboard a bottle containing the facts of the mutiny. The bottle was picked up near Rochelle, and the vessel was subsequently overhauled by a Government steamer off Yarmouth, and was taken to London. Six of the mutineers made their escape in a boat the night previous to the capture of the vessel.

There was a severe snow storm along the line of the Pacific Railroad, from Omaha to Ogden, on the 14th and 15th. The weather was also extremely cold.

A number of shipwrecks were reported from London, on the 15th, among them the loss of the British ship Astoria, with nine of her crew.

WASHINGTON society is stirred to its depths because the Japanese minister's wife has a little margin of exquisite native embroidery about one of her dresses, that cannot be duplicated for money. She cannot understand the bitter words spoken by the ladies, but she sees their envy in their looks and is made just as happy.

THEY have rings, too, in China. At the time of the recent difficulty in Japan, a number of forts were erected for the new eighteen-ton cannon. Already the works have crumbled to the ground, and military officers refuse to test the cannon.

THE MARKETS.

ST. LOUIS, November 15, 1875.

BEEVES—Choice, \$3.00 3/4; Good 1 3/4; Prime, 2 1/4; 1 1/2, 1 1/4; 1 1/4, 1 1/2; 1 1/2, 1